



Patent
7272-131 / 10312233
10/693,204

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Inventor: S. Shinotsuka et al.

Serial No.: 10/693,204

Filed: October 24, 2003

**For: OUTPUT COMPENSATING DEVICE
AND METHOD OF AN IMAGE SENSOR**

Group Art Unit: 2621

Examiner: Unknown

TRANSMITTAL OF TRANSLATION

**MAIL STOP: Correspondence
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Sir:

Applicant submits herewith a substitute English translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report.

Respectfully submitted,

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI LLP

Dated:

By:

Conrad R. Solum, Jr.
Reg. No. 20,467

Customer No. 000167
Deposit Account No. 50-0337
Enclosure

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
(37 C.F.R. §1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop: Correspondence, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT
NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL
OF COPIES OF TRANSLATION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 72.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

TORII, Kiyoshi
 25, Bentendori 2-chome, Naka-ku
 Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 231-0007
 Japan

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 06 January 2004 (06.01.04)	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
Applicant's or agent's file reference H1010347PCT	
International application No. PCT/JP02/03089	International filing date (day/month/year) 28 March 2002 (28.03.02)
Applicant HONDA GIKEN KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA et al	

1. Transmittal of the translation to the applicant.

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation made by the International Bureau of the international preliminary examination report established by the International Preliminary Examining Authority.

2. Transmittal of the copy of the translation to the elected Offices.

The International Bureau notifies the applicant that copies of that translation have been transmitted to the following elected Offices requiring such translation:

EP, CA, CN, KP, RO, US

The following elected Offices, having waived the requirement for such a transmittal at this time, will receive copies of that translation from the International Bureau only upon their request:

AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CH, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW

3. Reminder regarding translation into (one of) the official language(s) of the elected Office(s).

The applicant is reminded that, where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report.

It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned (Rule 74.1). See Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide for further details.

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. (41-22) 338.70.10	Authorized officer Emmanuel BERROD (Fax 338 7010) Telephone No. (41-22) 338 8389
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Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference H1010347PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/JP02/03089	International filing date (day/month/year) 28 March 2002 (28.03.02)	Priority date (day/month/year) 27 April 2001 (27.04.01)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04N 5/335, H01L 27/146		
Applicant HONDA GIKEN KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet. <input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT). These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items: I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 26 September 2002 (26.09.02)	Date of completion of this report 12 November 2002 (12.11.2002)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP02/03089

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed
- ☐ the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the claims:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the drawings:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* *Remplacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).*

** *Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.*

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International application No.

PCT/JP 02/03089

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-15	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-15	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-15	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Claims 1-15

Document 1 (JP 2001-36822 A (Minolta Co., Ltd.), 09 February 2001, entire text, Fig. 1-19) expresses the general state of the art in this technical field and discloses the feature of providing means to correct variations in the output of each pixel in an image sensor with photosensor circuits that, on a pixel basis, convert a sensor current, which flows through the photoelectric conversion element according to the quantity of incident light at the time of image pickup, to a voltage signal with logarithmic characteristics using the characteristics of the sub-threshold region of the transistor, and then output a sensor signal according to the converted voltage signal. However, a means for correcting variation in the output of each pixel wherein when the incident light to the photoelectric conversion element is cut off, an artificial bright period output signal is used as the sensor signal when (the gate voltage and) the drain voltage of the aforementioned transistor is switched to a value lower than a fixed value at the time of image pickup and an artificial dark period output signal is used as the sensor signal when the gate voltage of the aforementioned transistor is switched to a value higher than a fixed value at the time of image pickup and the transistor is in

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a conducting state is not disclosed or suggested in any of the documents cited in the international search report.

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VI. Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

<u>Application No. Patent No.</u>	<u>Publication date (day/month/year)</u>	<u>Filing date (day/month/year)</u>	<u>Priority date (valid claim) (day/month/year)</u>
JP 2002-44370 A	08 February 2002 (08.02.2002)	28 July 2002 (28.07.2002)	
[E, X]			

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

<u>Kind of non-written disclosure</u>	<u>Date of non-written disclosure (day/month/year)</u>	<u>Date of written disclosure referring to non-written disclosure (day/month/year)</u>